

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Fishbein and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am from Southbury and I am writing in support of HB 6355 – An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders Or Warrants.

According to Everytownresearch.org, “nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths in the US are suicides, resulting in an average of 64 deaths a day.” That amounts to the loss of 23,360 humans per year.

Death by suicide is on the rise in the US and is now the second leading cause of death for people under 40. Most people who attempt suicide survive, however not when a firearm is involved. According to Paul Nestadt, co-director of Johns Hopkins Anxiety Disorders Clinic, 90% of people who attempt suicide with a firearm die, whereas only 2% of people who attempt suicide by other means die.

Risk protection laws are demonstrated to reduce firearm suicide. A Duke/Yale/UCONN study reported that for every 10-20 risk protection orders issued under Connecticut’s ERPO law, one suicide is prevented. Another study reported that Indiana’s extreme risk laws reduced firearm suicide rates 7.5%. We need to strengthen our ERPO law to save lives.

Please vote yes on HB-6355 so that the CT House and Senate can vote to strengthen our Extreme Risk Protection law and save lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mary Doherty  
Southbury  
SD 32  
HD 69